

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (*Currently Amended*) An aquatic sports garment comprising:

an outer ~~layer~~, layer comprising neoprene, the neoprene outer layer having a thickness and an elasticity;

at least one multi-layered zone comprising at least the outer ~~layer and layer~~, the multi-layered zone further comprising an underlying layer made of an elastic material comprising stretch fibers;

the underlying layer having a thickness less than the thickness of the outer layer;

the underlying layer having an elasticity greater than the elasticity of the outer layer;

in at least one protective zone, adapted to be arranged opposite at least one joint of a wearer of the garment, the underlying layer lines the skin of the wearer in an elastically deformable manner so as to protect the skin from contact with the outer layer;

the underlying layer comprising a fixing zone, the underlying layer being fixed directly or indirectly to the outer layer in the fixing zone and, at least in the protective zone, the outer layer and underlying layer being free from one another.

Claim 2. (*Previously Presented*) A garment according to claim 1, wherein the underlying layer is fixed directly on an inner surface of the outer layer.

Claim 3. (*Original*) A garment according to claim 1, wherein the underlying layer is fixed on an intermediary piece inserted between the underlying layer and the outer layer.

Claim 4. (*Previously Presented*) A garment according to claim 1, wherein the underlying layer is in the form of a yoke, and wherein the fixing zone is arranged on edges of the yoke.

Claim 5. (*Previously Presented*) A garment according to claim 1, wherein the at least one protective zone of the underlying layer is arranged opposite one or more of the following joints of the wearer: elbows, knees, shoulders, crotch.

Claim 6. (*Original*) A garment according to claim 1, wherein the underlying layer has characteristics of comfort.

Claim 7. (*Currently Amended*) An aquatic sports garment ~~A garment according to claim 1, wherein comprising:~~

an outer layer;

at least one multi-layered zone comprising at least the outer layer, the multi-layered zone further comprising an underlying layer made of an elastic material;

in at least one protective zone, adapted to be arranged opposite at least one joint of a wearer of the garment, the underlying layer lines the skin of the wearer in an elastically deformable manner so as to protect the skin from contact with the outer layer;

the underlying layer comprising a fixing zone, the underlying layer being fixed directly or indirectly to the outer layer in the fixing zone and, at least in the protective zone, the outer layer and underlying layer being free from one another;

the underlying layer ~~comprises~~ comprising a perimeter forming the fixing zone for fixing said underlying layer on the outer layer, said perimeter of the underlying layer being substantially identical to a perimeter of the outer layer demarcating a bending zone, the bending zone comprising a development surface of the outer layer, said development surface of the outer layer being larger than a development surface of the protective zone of the underlying layer, so as to create a looseness of the outer layer with respect to the underlying layer to facilitate movement while eliminating constraints on the skin of the wearer.

Claim 8. (*Previously Presented*) A garment according to claim 1, wherein the underlying layer is made of a thin, elastic and non-folding material, so that the underlying layer lays flat against the skin of the wearer in order to protect the skin when the garment is worn by the wearer and to accompany all of movements of the wearer.

Claim 9. (*Currently Amended*) A garment according to claim 4, wherein the constituent material of the yoke ~~is Lyera~~ comprises elasthane fibers.

Claim 10. (*Currently Amended*) A garment according to claim 1, wherein the underlying layer is fixed on the outer layer by ~~heat-sealing~~ having been heat-sealed onto the outer layer.

Claim 11. (*Original*) A garment according to claim 1, wherein the outer layer has characteristics of strength, insulation and water-tightness.

Claim 12. (*Canceled*)

Claim 13. (*Currently Amended*) A garment according to claim ~~11~~, 1, wherein the constituent material of the outer layer is jersey associated with the neoprene.

Claim 14. (*Currently Amended*) A garment according to claim 1, wherein the outer layer comprises functional folds ~~obtained by a previous thermoforming operation, in order to procure more ease when the folds spread during a movement~~ in the protective zone made by having been thermoformed, said functional folds facilitating movement of the outer layer relative to the underlying layer during movement by the wearer by a spreading of said functional folds during said movement of the outer layer.

Claim 15. (*Previously Presented*) A garment according to claim 1, wherein both the outer layer and the underlying layer extend throughout said at least one protective zone.

Claim 16. (*Previously Presented*) A garment according to claim 15, wherein the outer layer is movable relative to the underlying layer throughout said protective zone.

Claim 17. (*Previously Presented*) A garment according to claim 1, wherein both the outer layer and the underlying layer, in each of said at least one protective zone, extend throughout said at least one protective zone.

Claim 18. (*Previously Presented*) A garment according to claim 17, wherein, throughout each of said at least one protective zone, the outer layer is movable relative to the underlying layer.

Claim 19. (*Previously Presented*) A garment according to claim 1, wherein the underlying layer is fixed on the outer layer by at least one heat seal.

Claim 20. (*Previously Presented*) A garment according to claim 1, wherein the outer layer comprises functional folds lying above the underlying layer, the underlying layer adapted to lie flat against the skin of the wearer.

Claim 21. (*New*) A garment according to claim 1, wherein the underlying layer comprises elasthane fibers.

Claim 22. (*New*) A garment according to claim 1, wherein the neoprene of the outer layer comprises a neoprene layer having a thickness of about 3 millimeters to about 8 millimeters.

Claim 23. (*New*) A garment according to claim 1, wherein the outer layer extends throughout areas of the garment beyond the underlying layer.

Claim 24. (*New*) A garment according to claim 1, wherein the underlying layer has a periphery localized at said protective zone, the underlying layer being fixed to said outer layer at said periphery of the underlying area, said fixing zone comprising said periphery.

Claim 25. (*New*) A garment according to claim 1, wherein the underlying layer comprises a tubular single sleeve having a two end edges, a first of said end edges of the tubular single sleeve adapted to extend around an arm of the wearer and being fixed to the outer layer, a second of said end edges of the tubular single sleeve being fixed to a torso portion of the outer layer.

Claim 26. (*New*) A garment according to claim 1, wherein each of the at least one protective zone is arranged to be opposite a respectively different joint of the wearer of the garment.

Claim 27. (*New*) A garment according to claim 26, wherein each of the at least one protective zone comprises a single free zone by which the underlying layer is non-attached to the outer layer.

Claim 28. (*New*) A garment according to claim 1, wherein the protective zone has a size and shape adapted to cover a substantial area of the joint of a wearer of the garment.

Claim 29. (*New*) A garment according to claim 7, wherein:

the outer layer comprises neoprene, the outer layer having a thickness and an elasticity;

the multi-layered zone comprises at least the outer layer, the multi-layered zone further comprising an underlying layer made of an elastic material comprising stretch fibers;

the underlying layer has a thickness less than the thickness of the outer layer;

the underlying layer has an elasticity greater than the elasticity of the outer layer.

Claim 30. (*New*) A garment according to claim 29, wherein each of the at least one protective zone is arranged to be opposite a respectively different joint of the wearer of the garment.

Claim 31. (*New*) A garment according to claim 30, wherein each of the at least one protective zone comprises a single free zone by which the underlying layer is non-attached to the outer layer.

Claim 32. (*New*) A garment according to claim 7, wherein the protective zone of said one multi-layered zone comprises a single free zone by which the underlying layer is non-attached to the outer layer.

Claim 33. (*New*) An aquatic sports garment comprising:

a plurality of discrete spaced-apart multi-layered zones, each of said plurality of multi-layered zones being localized to cover a different respective protective zone of a plurality of protective zones of a wearer of the garment;

each of said plurality of multi-layered zones comprising:

an outer layer comprising neoprene, said outer layer having a thickness and an elasticity;

an underlying layer comprising elastic fibers adapted to contact the skin of the wearer;

the underlying layer having a thickness less than the thickness of the outer layer;

the underlying layer having an elasticity greater than the elasticity of the outer layer;

the underlying layer having a peripheral fixing zone, the underlying layer being fixed relative to the outer layer in the fixing zone;

in the different respective protective zones, the underlying layers of the plurality of multi-layered zones being non-attached to the outer layers of the multi-layered zones to allow free movement therebetween.

Claim 34. (*New*) A garment according to claim 33, wherein the neoprene of the outer layer comprises a neoprene layer having a thickness of about 3 millimeters to about 8 millimeters.

Claim 35. (*New*) A garment according to claim 34, wherein the outer layer further comprises a woven jersey material covering the neoprene layer.

Claim 36. (*New*) A garment according to claim 33, wherein the protective zone of each of said multi-layered zones comprises a single free zone by which the underlying layer is non-attached to the outer layer.

Claim 37. (*New*) A garment according to claim 33, wherein the outer layer extends throughout areas of the garment beyond the underlying layer.